

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 03654 220850Z

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ACTION EB-11

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 3654

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: ENRG, SW

SUBJECT: INTEGRATED EMERGENCY PROGRAM (IEP): SWEDISH VIEWS

REF: STATE 178412 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS SUMMARIZE OUR ASSESSMENT OF SWEDISH POSITION ON IEP AND SOME BASIC CONSIDERATIONS LIKELY TO INFLUENCE SWEDISH DECISION-MAKING ON THIS SUBJECT. GOS PROBABLY HAS NOT REACHED DECISION AS YET ON WHETHER TO JOIN IEP, IF INVITED. TECHNICAL DETAILS AND POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS ARE STILL BEING STUDIED AFTER SUMMER HOLIDAYS. PROSPECTS FOR THEIR JOINING WOULD BE IMMEASURABLY IMPROVED IF IEP COULD BE LOOKED UPON BY SWEDES AS COMING UNDER GENERAL AEGIS OF OECD TO WHICH SWEDEN HAS MEMBERSHIP, RATHER THAN AS SEPARATE PROGRAM WITH USG IN DOMINANT ROLE. DECISION IS LIKELY TO BE MADE BY EARLY SEPTEMBER WHEN SWEDES EXPECT TO MEET WITH DAVIGNON IN BRUSSELS. END SUMMARY.

2. INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY REGARDING STATE-OF-CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STOCKH 03654 220850Z

PLAY IN GOS RELATIONSHIP TO ENERGY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

(ECG) AND IEP SUGGESTS THAT THE NORWEGIANS HAVE KEPT THE SWEDES FULLY INFORMED OF THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE, THROUGH MEETINGS OF NORDIC COUNCIL MEMBERS DURING WHICH SWEDES HAVE GIVEN THEIR OWN REACTIONS. AT LATEST NORDIC COUNCIL MEETING AUGUST 1, THE NORWEGIANS BRIEFED SWEDES ON ECG JULY 29-31 MEETING AND MADE AVAILABLE SOME DOCUMENTS COVERING MEETING. WE HAVE INFORMATION ALSO THAT SWEDES THROUGH THEIR EMBASSY IN BRUSSELS HAVE HAD AN EXCHANGE WITH DAVIGNON AND THALYMOJ RECENTLY THE GOS INSTRUCTED THEIR EC CAPITALS AND EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON TO INDICATE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING IN THE CONSULTATIONS ON ENERGY PROBLEMS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO PETROLEUM. INSTRUCTIONS HOWEVER DID NOT GO TO EXTENT OF REQUESTING MEMBERSHIP IN ECG, ALTHOUGH IT IS CLEAR THAT SWEDES WERE UNHAPPY OVER THEIR EXCLUSION FROM ITS MEMBERSHIP WHEN ECG WAS FORMED.

3. ON IEP THE SWEDES APPARENTLY HAVE RECEIVED A GOOD BRIEFING ON THE GENERAL FRAMEWORK OF PROPOSALS. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THEY HAVE RECEIVED SPECIFICS RELATING TO TRIGGER POINT, EMERGENCY STOCKPILES, ETC., ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE RECEIVED SOME DOCUMENTS NOT SPECIFIED. SWEDES ARE AWARE ALSO THAT NORWEGIANS, AS THE ONLY NET PETROLEUM EXPORTING COUNTRY, ARE HAVING DIFFICULTIES ACCEPTING THE IEP. WE UNDERSTAND THAT GOS HAS FORMED AN INFORMAL GROUP TO STUDY THE IEP, FOLLOWING RETURN OF KEY OFFICERS FROM HOLIDAY LEAVE, AND THAT SWEDES EXPECT TO BE MEETING DAVIGNON IN EARLY SEPTEMBER. THEREFORE, GOS, IT WOULD APPEAR, MUST COME UP WITH A POSITION BY THAT TIME.

4. FROM TECHNICAL STANDPOINT, SWEDES ARE WELL AWARE THAT THEIR COMPLETE DEPENDENCE ON PETROLEUM IMPORTS MAKES PARTICIPATION IN IEP ALMOST A MUST. ON OTHER HAND, POLITICALLY BECAUSE OF THEIR "NEUTRAL FOREIGN POLICY" POSITION, AND BECAUSE OF THEIR CONSISTENT LEANING IN SUPPORT OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, THEY ARE SKITTISH ABOUT JOINING NEW GROUPS WHICH MIGHT BE CONSIDERED AS COMPROMISING THEIR NON-ALIGNED STATUS. THUS THE SWEDES HOPE, AND APPARENTLY ARE COUNTING ON, THE IEP COMING UNDER THE AEGIS OF OECD WHERE THEY ARE ALREADY MEMBERS OR UNDER SOME OTHER CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STOCKH 03654 220850Z

INTERNATIONAL SPONSORSHIP. THEY DO NOT SAY, BUT IT IS IMPLICIT, THAT A SEPARATE IEP WHICH IS DOMINATED BY THE USG CREATES POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES FOR THEM. THE SWEDES ARE, HOWEVER PRACTICAL PEOPLE, AND, IN A SITUATION WHERE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC IMPERATIVES CONFLICT, THEY COULD BE INDUCED TO FOLLOW THE LATTER COURSE. AT SAME TIME, IF SWEDEN SHOULD JOIN IEP, IT WILL WISH TO ACCOMMODATE NORWEGIAN VIEWS TO EXTENT POSSIBLE AS A FELLOW NORDIC MEMBER.

5. RECOMMENDATION: TO OBTAIN SWEDISH SUPPORT AND EVENTUAL PARTICIPATION IN IEP, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE TAKE KEY SWEDISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS INTO OUR CONFIDENCE AND DISCUSS FRANKLY WITH THEM THE ALTERNATIVES FACING CONSUMER COUNTRIES FROM AN OIL CRISIS, IF IT ARISES. BECAUSE SWEDEN BELIEVES THAT IT IS A LEADER AMONG NORDIC COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY IN FORMULATING NORDIC ECONOMIC POLICIES IN INTERNATIONAL FORA, AND BECAUSE, IN FACT, THEY DO HAVE A KEY ROLE TO PLAY, THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT, WITH RESPECT TO PETROLEUM AND ENERGY PROBLEMS GENERALLY, IT BE AUTHORIZED TO DISCUSS IN DETAIL OUR VIEWS ON THIS PROBLEM.
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